

REMARKS

Claims 12-35 are pending in this application. Claims 12-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and second paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, and as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Examiner asserts that in claims 12, 19, 25, and 31, the features "a directional processor having a reception port and a transmission port" and "positioned in either of two positions" are not supported by the specification. The Examiner assumes that the CATV directional component cited in claims 12, 19, 25, and 31 refers to the cable tap, and the components inside the tap do not describe a directional processor at all in the specification or in the drawings. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

A signal tap distributes CATV signals to a number of subscribers. A signal tap includes circuitry which is mounted on a printed circuit board. CATV signals are routed through the circuitry on the printed circuited board, and the circuitry comprises a plurality of processors.

The feature "a directional processor having a reception port and a transmission port" is supported by the following disclosure in the specification.

The signal tap comprises a housing frame, a back cover with an integral support clamp and a signal tap cover with a plurality of

female F-connectors. The loss circuitry is mounted on a PC board that is affixed internal to the signal tap cover. The present invention allows for the rapid exchange between the signal tap cover and rear cover allowing easy signal direction reversal; (see page 4 lines 9-15, emphasis added).

... the signal tap 51 includes a housing frame 53, a signal tap cover 55 and a rear cover 57. The signal tap cover 55 has signal distribution circuitry rigidly attached ... (see page 5 lines 22-24).

Symmetric female connectors 81a, 81b extending beyond the insulating body 75 engage with male input 43a and output 43b signal receptors located on the PC board 29 (shown in Figure 2); (see page 6 line 25 - page 7 line 2, emphasis added).

From the foregoing disclosure, it is clear that a signal tap cover includes distribution circuitry on the PC board, and input and output receptors are located on the PC board. The present invention allows for the rapid exchange between the signal tap cover and a rear cover allowing easy signal direction reversal. The specification clearly discloses that distribution circuitry on the PC board is directional such that a direction reversal of the distribution circuitry is easily accomplished by simply interchanging the signal tap cover and the rear cover. Circuitry comprises a bank of processors for processing signals. Therefore, the feature "a directional processor having a reception port and a transmission port" is clearly supported by the specification.

The feature "positioned in either of two positions" is also supported by the following disclosure in the specification.

Each side of housing frame 53 of the signal tap 51 is symmetric with respect to the mounting holes 59 for the front 55 and rear 57 covers allowing for either cover 55, 57 to be placed on either side of the housing frame 53; (see page 6 lines 1-5, emphasis added).

... the front 55 and rear covers 57 may be interchanged freely thereby allowing for rapid signal direction 50 reversal; (see page 6 lines 9-11, emphasis added).

The present invention allows for the rapid exchange between the signal tap cover and rear cover allowing easy signal direction reversal; (see page 4 lines 13-15, emphasis added).

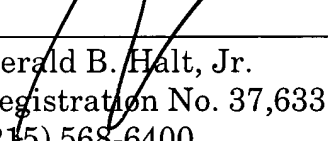
From the foregoing disclosure, it is clear that the front cover and the rear cover may be installed on either side of the frame, and this interchange allows signal direction reversal. The interchange of two covers permits the directional processor on the front cover to be positioned in opposite directions. Therefore, the feature "positioned in either of two positions" is also clearly supported by the specification.

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Application No.: 09/690,057

For the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention is allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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